

MUNOFS VI Research Report

Forum: Security Council

Issue: Extending the UN combat mission with D.R Congo

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Introduction

D.R Congo was established by a Belgian colony in the late 1908s by the Belgian King Leopold II, who offered a “30 year plan” for granting the Congo’s increased self governance but ended up in a 52 years of brutal treatment and execution of the Congolese. In 1960, Congo got its independence with Patrice Lumumba as Prime Minister and Joseph Kasavubu as President. At this time, the UN Security Council voted to send in troops to help with the set up. However. They were *not allowed* to intervene with internal affairs and conflicts. During the movement of Lumumba, the Southern Congo(Katanga) broke apart as it revolted against the Prime Minister. 1961, the UN troops unarmed the Katangese rebellions. The first five years of Post-Independence pleasant as the country was politically unstable and still building up. Mobutu Sese Seka seeks power in 1965.

During the period of 1966 till 1996 Mobutu struggled with keeping the country under-control, leading to it’s rebels to take over when Laurent Kabliba was the President. The era of civil war had began which dragged the several neighboring countries (Africa’s First World War) which lasted till 2003. By 2006, the new constitution was adopted and the first proper elections were done after 47 years. Even after the change in constitution the rebel groups kept rising until the National Congress for the Defense of the People(CNDP) signed a peace treaty on 23rd March 2009, with government of Congo which resulted in disastrous consequences. As the army was unwilling because the treaty did not fulfill the mandatory demands such as higher

wages and more food. When General Bosco Ntanganda appealed against the treaty he was accused and arrested. The government acted too fast after the treaty(still unimplemented) was signed and rushed into fleeing the CNDP from North Kivu, which made many leave the army and establish a new rebellion group, March 23 Movement abbreviated as M23.



M23 is now controlling Goma, North Kivu and progressing towards the South.

Key Terms Defined

UN Peacekeepers- A unique group of armed forces under UN who help countries undergoing conflicts and civil war. Their objective is to protect the civilian and their rights. The Peacekeepers cannot substitute a national army. They are not be involved in internal affairs but only protect people from its consequences.

M23- A group of 5,000 armed rebellions, who previously were a part of the D.R Congo's national army but were defected after the peace treaty on March 23rd 2009. M23 is abbreviated form of March 23rd Movement.

North Kivu Province- A province at the eastern end of the D.R Congo facing Rwanda and Uganda. This province has been captured by the M23 since 2010. The capital city, Goma was recently taken over in mid 2012 as the civilians were told to resist.

Rebellion- An act of armed resistance to an established government or leader:*the authorities put down a rebellion by landless colonials*(“Rebellion | Define Rebellion at OxfordDictionary.com)

Democracy:“Government by the people; a form of government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised directly by them or by their elected agents under a free electoral system.” (Dictionary.com. Web. 01 Aug. 2011. <<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/democracy>>.)

Intervention Brigade: Armed forces of the UN Peacekeepers send to countries in order to fight directly against the the rebellions.



General Topic Overview

Ever since the the peace treaty was signed the situation in D.R Congo has not improved but rather it has worsened. After the official establishment of M23 on 4th April 2010 number of casualties and human right violation has almost doubled. In

July 2013, 44 people were executed and 66 women and girls were raped over the 30 days period just the Goma.

The M23 rebellion group have made demands such as; amending the human rights, democracy as well as good governance. They had taken over the capital city of Goma and are heavily armed after stealing 20 containers of arms and ammunition of different caliber including type-BMP and BM-type rocket launchers. They have taken control of Goma and the whole of North Kivu.

On July 1st 2012, the Security Council established(changed the old organization working in D.R Congo as Peacekeepers) the United Nation Organization Stabilization mission in Democratic Republic of Congo(MONUSCO), by its [Resolution S/RES/1925](#). As written on the MONUSCO website, “The new mission was authorized to use all necessary means to carry out its mandate relating, among other things, to the protection of civilians, humanitarian personnel and human rights defenders under imminent threat of physical violence and to support the Government of the DRC in its stabilization and peace consolidation efforts”.

However. Even after this establishment, M23 were easily able to capture the city of Goma knowing that the MONUSCO would be there. The blue hats did not even fire a single bullet in the taking over. The French Foreign Minister, Laurent Fabius said, “It was absurd that the UN troops had allowed the rebels to parade past them”(Plett, BBC). The MONUSCO could not do anything in the whole act of the M23 taking the capital city of North Kivu on November 21st 2012. The UN Combat Mission will end in 2014. The UN forces failed in disarming combatting the rebellion as they can not violate their directions which is to only protect civilians and their human rights, but still women are being raped and people are being executed even after a protective force being present. In the most recent Security Council’s resolution S/RESO/2098, it is mentioned to send intervention brigade to the threaten the rebellions. This is the most powerful step taken by the SC in this issue.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO):

MONUSCO was established in order to maintain peace in D.R Congo and to also make sure that the rights are not being violated. This is a regiment of UN Peacekeepers, therefore, they can only not act as a national army and cannot directly fight against the rebellions. Their aim is to give maximum protection to civilians and their rights. This organization has been in D.R Congo since 2003. The recently passed resolution S/RESO/2098 strongly condemned; March 23 Movement(M23), Lord's Resistance Army(LRA), Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Uganda and all other armed group which are continuing violence and abuses of human rights(MONUSCO Background, United Nations). The organization consists of 22, 016 uniformed personnel. Their mission lasts till 13th March 2014.

D.R Congo:

Its government is highly concerned on the actions M23 has taken in the last three months. Realizing that D.R Congo is a mineral rich country, it is highly important to make sure that the resources are not being exploited. Once the rebellions have joined forces then not much can be done. Till now, the M23 is still in North Kivu and are progressing south. The country's main import is copper and cobalt which is mined by a British company in the central area(World's largest cobalt refinery). Once the rebels start progressing towards the west then the consequences can be big enough to make global impacts.

Rwanda:

Rwanda has been unofficially arming the rebellions and have constantly contributed in the D.R Congo's devastation. Even after signing the "[Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region](#)", its financing the attacks. During the attack in Goma on 20th November 2012, the Congolese custom officers abandoned their post left border open to Rwanda. This allowed them even more freedom to help the rebels, however, it is D.R Congo still does not recognize that fact.

March 23rd Movement(M23):

The rebellions organization has influenced this issue the most as they have opposed their leaders and made their own. As mentioned before they also made demands before M23's official establishment such as; amending the human rights, democracy as well as good governance. North Kivu is currently run by them.

Timeline of events

1961- The first involvement of UN in disarming the Katangese soldiers

2000- UN sends 5,500 armed soldiers to monitor ceasefire between rebels, governments and neighboring countries but conflicts continues

2006- First proper elections after 47 years in which UN Peacekeepers maintain order and disarm small rebel groups

March 23rd 2009- Peace treaty signed between the government and the leading rebellion group National Congress for the Defense of the People(CNDP) which worsened the army's situation resulting in defects.

July 2010- MONUSCO was established, now with more armed forces and a better monitoring team than the previous UN organization MONUC.

April 2012- Establishment of another rebellions group named by March 23rd Movement(M23) was formed due to the unwillingness of the nation military. Nearly 300 militants were defected lead by General Bosco Ntaganda.

18 November 2012- M23 progresses towards the outskirts of Goma and warns UN Peacekeepers to not join/support national troops.

20 November 2012- Congolese army retreats after a small fight

21 November 2012- Goma captured by the M23 and President tells the civilians to resist the rebellions. Also by this time 2, 000 militants from the national army join M23 including 700 policemen.

18 March 2013- M23's leader Bosco Ntaganda, hands himself to the US Embassy and requests transfer to International Criminal Court, Hague.

UN involvement, relevant resolutions, Treaties and Events

United Nation has been an active part of this issue since D.R Congo got its independence. In 1961, UN had disarmed Kantangese soldiers in order to give D.R Congo political support. It was a major step taken in the 60s which allowed the new nation to build up to have a stable structure. In 1998 UN had to send it troops to help out the with another rebellion take over which was against the Kaliba Government(in power at that time). In few weeks the rebel group had taken over most of Kivu. Despite the fact that the Angola, Chad, Namibia and Zimbabwe helped with military support, the rebels remained unharmed. That was the time Security Council called for ceasefire and demanded all states to retrieve it's troops and not interfere in external affairs.

Lusaka Ceasefire agreement was also set by the UN which made sure that countries do not deal with external affairs as previously when it happened, more devastation was caused. Therefore it was really important for the 5 nations(Angola, Namibia, Rwanda, Uganda and Zimbabwe) to sign the agreement, which they did. This helped in cooling the situation down.

Resolution 1279 was passed in the Security Council at 30th May 1999, this established the very first organization initially for monitoring, ceasefire and disarmament. It was called United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo(MONUC).

Resolution 1925 renamed the MONUC organization to United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). This change occurred to face the new phase of the country. The mission was amended to , protecting the civilians and their rights and maintain peace in the Nation.

Resolution 2098. This resolution introduced “intervention brigade” to the mission which strengthened the peacekeepers as they had the command to directly face the

rebellions. They have already threatened M23 from progressing, but the results have not been as expected.

Possible Solutions

Just extending the mission the not much would happen because, if we look at the history of peacekeepers in D.R Congo, extension of the mission would just mean the extension of the primary issue, which is violation of human rights. The main action which must be taken is extend the mission but also to introduce the idea of confronting the rebellion rather than just threatening them. The UN Peacekeeper watched M23 take over Goma and could not do anything. Only if they had to higher command of actually stopping them, then the situation could have been better. Rather than just sending more and more people who can just spectate the crisis and not act upon it will not solve the issue.

The second thing which could be done is to stop Rwanda aiding the rebellions as it will just make them stronger and eventually they revolt against Rwanda itself. The arms and ammunition is provided by Rwanda however it has never accepted the fact. A resolution which can help Rwanda *realize* the fact the aiding them now will just lead to their own destruction in later, because the rebellions can just turn around the start spreading towards east.

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